AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an elastomer mixture for manufacturing rubber, comprising:

metering at least one elastomer to be processed for manufacturing the elastomer mixture into a mixing extruder; and

mixing and plasticizing and/or masticating the elastomer as the elastomer passes through the mixing extruder, the elastomer being present in a uniformly distributed form in a first fluid medium while being charged into the mixing extruder;

introducing a reinforcing material in a second fluid medium to the elastomer;

removing the first fluid medium and/or second fluid medium in several

dewatering steps as the product passes through the mixing extruder; and

incorporating a filler in several incorporation steps as the product

passes through the mixing extruder;

wherein the incorporation steps and dewatering steps alternate in succession.

- 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first fluid medium is a solvent in which the elastomer is present in dissolved form.
- 3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the elastomer is present as an emulsion of an elastomer solution in a liquid not miscible with the solvent.
- 4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer is present as a suspension of elastomer particles in a liquid.
- 5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer is present as a gel-like compound in a solvent.
- 6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixing extruder is a tightly meshing multi-screw extruder having screws that rotate in the same direction.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a the reinforcing material is added to the elastomer dispersed in the first liquid fluid medium before charging in the mixing extruder.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a the reinforcing material is added to the elastomer dispersed in the first liquid fluid medium via charging in the mixing extruder.

- 9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reinforcing material added to the elastomer is present as a suspension in a second fluid medium.
- 10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the reinforcing material added to the elastomer is prepared via wet milling in a device before being metered into the mixing extruder.
- 11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the suspension of reinforcing material is wet milled in a gap between two coaxial rotating elements, which are rotated relative to each other around a shared axis, and generate a shearing field in the gap between the coaxial rotating elements.
- 12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the two coaxial rotating elements are a respective cylinder and cone, or a respective cone, configured so that the gap between the coaxial rotating elements narrows or expands in a product conveying direction.
- 13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein one of the rotating elements is a rotor, and another of the rotating elements is a stator.
- 14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein pin-like elevations extend from a surface of a respective rotating element in the gap, moving by each other as the rotating elements rotate, and colliding with suspended particles of the reinforcing material.

- 15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the gap incorporates collision elements that collide with the surface and/or the pin-like elevations of the rotating elements as well as with the suspended particles of reinforcing material during relative rotation of the rotating elements.
- 16. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein wet milling takes place with a centrifugal mill.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein additional components for the elastomer mixture are at least partially charged in the mixing extruder.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the additional components are selected from a <u>the</u> group consisting of: fillers, additives, vulcanizing agents, accelerators, softeners and aids.
 - 19. (Cancelled)
- 20. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein no crosslinking agents are charged in the elastomer mixture.
- 21. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein a product temperature in the mixing extruder is kept under a vulcanizing temperature at least on a side opposite a conveying direction from a metering point when metering vulcanizing agent into the product.

- 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the <u>additional</u> components and reinforcing material in the mixing extruder are incorporated and/or comminuted and/or distributed in the elastomer.
- 23. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the product in the mixing extruder is degassed.
 - 24. (Cancelled)
- 25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24 1, wherein the first and/or second fluid medium is removed before charging a vulcanizing agent in the mixing extruder.

26-28. (Cancelled)

- 29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28 1, wherein only as much product is removed from the first and/or second fluid medium during a dewatering step as required to ensure desired incorporation for an ensuing incorporation step.
- 30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein one or more dewatering steps take place at one or more lateral openings in a direction of product passage along the mixing extruder, wherein another <u>a</u> lateral extruder is arranged on the at least one lateral opening of the mixing extruder, conveying toward and emptying into this the at least one lateral opening.

- 31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the product elastomer mixture is reacted with a coagulant.
- 32. (Currently Amended) The method according claim 1, wherein the product elastomer mixture is molded as it exits the mixing extruder.
- 33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the molded product elastomer mixture is granulated.
- 34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein the molded product elastomer mixture is heated along a vulcanization path in such a way that polymers continuously crosslink.
- 35. (Withdrawn) A device for executing the method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - at least one charging area for receiving an elastomer; and a mixing extruder with at least one mixing area.
- 36. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 35, wherein the mixing extruder is a multi-screw extruder.
- 37. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 36, wherein the mixing extruder is a ring extruder.

- 38. (Withdrawn) An elastomer mixture manufactured using the method according to claim 1.
- 39. (Withdrawn) The elastomer mixture according to claim 38, wherein the elastomer mixture is present in dried and granulated, free-flowing form.
- 40. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer mixture is a compound.
- 41. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reinforcing material is at least one of soot and silicate.
- 42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 <u>1</u>, wherein the reinforcing material added to the elastomer is present as a suspension in a <u>the</u> second fluid medium.